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Friday, February 1, 2013

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Chavez-run government holds total power: rights group

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Venezuela's government, headed by ailing and absent President Hugo Chavez, holds "total" power while the country's Supreme Court lacks all credibility, Human Rights Watch said Thursday.

REE

"In Venezuela, there is what one would call a total concentration of power," Jose Miguel Vivanco, HRW's America's director told reporters at the presentation of the group's annual global rights report.

"What should constitute a democratic regime with separation of powers does not exist," Vivanco said, adding that the state's Supreme Court has lacked "the absolute minimum credibility" since it was "captured" by the Chavez government in 2004.

The Supreme Court played a central role recently in upholding the constitutionality of the government's decision to indefinitely delay Chavez's swearing in to a new term six year term on January 10.

Chavez, who is convalescing from a fourth round of cancer surgery in Cuba, was too

sick to make it back for the inauguration. But the delay allows him and his government to stay in office until he is well enough to take the oath.

Meanwhile, Chavez, who won reelection in October, has not been seen in public since December 10, the day before he underwent surgery.

Vivanco called the Supreme Court's decision "quite surprising," saying it left Venezuela in a "very abnormal situation" where "the former government still rules."

"This is very revealing and an excellent example... of what it means to not have an independent judiciary that can preserve and uphold democratic principles and the very constitution devised by President Chavez."

HRW said in its latest report that during Chavez's presidency, "the accumulation of power in the executive branch and the erosion of human rights guarantees have enabled his government to intimidate, censor, and prosecute Venezuelans who criticize the president or thwart his political agenda."

SETAR celebrates its 10th birthday as an NV today!



The old SETAR building

tice the positive changes.
A total reorganization to

A total reorganization took place internally in which they jointly worked with all employees with the union STT (Sindicatonan di Telecomumicacion di Aruba) playing an active role. The common goal was and still is: a strong and successful SETAR N.V. in which service to the client was and still is their highest objective and the quality of technology is primordial. In this way the first collective agreement was signed on July 11, 2003.

A radical shift took place in 2003 and the company

started to intensify the focus on the client. That same year, the company SETAR N.V. adopted a philosophy "One-Stop-Shopping", in which its aim was to ensure that the client could encounter all products and services at any outlet of SETAR Teleshops.all services under one roof. This did require changes and the automatization of various internal systems in the company to improve the service to make the clients happy, while the vision of the company is being magnified.

Continued o pg 2

Aruba's telecommunications company, SETAR N.V. became e reality on February 1st, 2003. The former government company SETAR became SETAR N.V. in her new structure as an N.V. company. The challenges that SETAR N.V. faced were enormous from being a government run company with public employees to one in which employees must work focusing feature internally where many changes took place, but while SETAR became a NV a competition of another company in Aruba in telecommunication made their entrance. These two challenges both internally and externally demanded a great effort to bring the necessary changes to create success for SETAR N.V.

Roland Croes became the first director of SETAR N.V and he took this responsibility very seriously. Even though it appeared to be a very difficult task, the employees who were promoted to the N.V. were determined to make SETAR a solid N.V. and into a nr. 1 telecommunications company in Aruba. As time passed, slowly but surely everyone began to no-





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THE PARTY OF THE P

SETAR celebrates its 10th birthday as an NV

Continued from pg 1







Now clients have access to all types of services at all the SETAR Teleshops but also access to the online services that SETAR offers. All Teleshops have been renovated one at a time, to reflect the new dynamic and innovative N.V. The first one completely renovated was at the Irausquinplein in Oranjestad. After that each of the other Teleshops experienced the same changes.

In 2004 SETAR the Hendrikstraat building was renovated, it needed the face-lift. It became a modern facility and contemporary in the shopping mall of Oranjestad. In 2004 SETAR succeeded in purchasing Telearuba channel 13. This also has been completely renovated with new digital equipment. In march 2005 TeleAruba was reopened a completely new look and image. Telearuba, jointly with Setar NV produced the first Sparkling Tour which became a national success.

In February 2005 SETAR completed the process of the purchase of Cable TV Aruba. This enabled the company to invest in new technology for voice, video, broadband and mobile communication. SETAR later opened a professional repair center for their cellular telephones. In 2006 the Blackberry was introduced with video conferencing

encing.

In 2010 SETAR introduced the Android phone to Aruba, bringing the best technology to the island offering clients a variety of possibilities and platforms. SETAR has continued to innovate and upgrade and provide their growing number of



clients the very best in the field of telecommunications. Their innovative efforts include the renovation of physical structures such as the building in the Caya Betico Croes where Cable TV was located. There they have created a brand new shopping complex their SETAR Store, complete with the newest technology and shopping experience.

SETAR is cognizant of the importance of excellent service to their clients, hence, we can continue to see even more innovations and upgrading in the future.

The MORNING NEWS is proud to congratulate SETAR NV and do wish them the very best for the future. We are truly proud of our own local telecommunications company!







Chartis Insurance Aruba is re-branded as AIG Aruba Insurance















Since November 2012, AIG has paid out the last of its debts of over US \$182 billions to US Treasury and has decided to use AIG brand with a new brand promise for



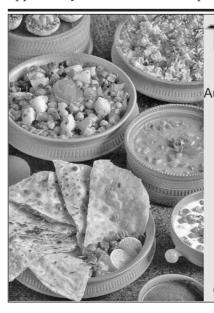
all its operations the world over. Thus our Chartis operations will be re-branded to AIG. Worldwide AIG has 62.000 employees and US \$64 billions in annual revenue

Thus our renewed logo of AIG with a new brand promise 'Bring on Tomorrow' has been unfolded in November all over the world. Our new brand promise captures the spirit of our revitalized organization It shows the qualities of teamwork, initiative, innovation, professionalism and integrity during its 93 years of operation. We will continue to work hard to deliver strong services, solutions & expertise that you have come to expect from us.

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Government exploring employment opportunity for 60 plussers



The government of Aruba considers increasing the participation in the labor force to be an important matter for serious consideration. Minister of Labor, Otmar Oduber, has set out to divide this matter into 5 sub divisions. One of these divisions is to explore ways in which those 60 years and older can continue their jobs or to create opportunities for employment for this age group.

According to the Minister, one of the complaints he receives frequently is that many persons are denied employment in our community

the moment they reveal that they are 55 years or older. At that age practically all doors for employment are closed to them.

This is what has led him to embark on a study to ascertain the possibilities that could be created for this particular age group. This study will be conducted by

the Department of Labor and Investigation in the months of March and April.

According to Oduber, many of our people who have reached or are approaching the age of 60 have a desire to continue working for a few more years. Regardless of the reasons they want to continue working, we must explore possibilities for this group of persons to continue to be active in the labor force. Our goal must be to increase the participation of the community in the labor force.

March 1st, last day to submit Collective Salary list and Collective List of third party payment obligations!



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The Aruba Tax Bureau has just issued a bulletin informing all employers that the deadline date for submitting the Collective Salary List and the Collective List of third party payment obligations for the year 2012 is March 1st, 2013. In Dutch,



your house

and yard clean

these are called the "Verzamelloonstaat" and the "Verzamelstaat opgaaf derden."

The prolongation of this term applies automatically to every client. Hence, there is no reason to request any further prolongation. After March 1st. they will allow for no further prolongation.

The Tax Bureau requests every client to be sure and control each list carefully before submitting them, and to submit them on time; don't wait until the last moment. To submit your list late will result in longer wait time and less time to make corrections. An incomplete or incorrect list will not be accepted.

According to the Tax Bureau, the responsibility for submitting the Lists rests with the client and not with a third person or advisor, consultant or payroll master. The client, whose name is on the documents, is fully responsible for submitting the documents on time.



Department of Labor to investigate the phenomena of cheap labor and use new labor laws to fight it

The government of Aruba is currently giving a great deal of attention to the labor sector. One of the areas to be investigated by the Department of Labor and Investigation (DAO) is that of the phenomena of cheap labor. According to the Minister of Labor, this matter has been a topic of discussion for quiet some time. But, the time has come to conduct a study to ascertain to what extent there is cheap labor, in which sectors of the labor force, and how it can be influenced.

The Minister is convinced that the new laws recently approved in Parliament will definitely combat any cheap labor situation. In this context, based on the new vision and labor management, whatever results from the study on cheap labor, they will be able

to impose a strict management to curtail any such practice. Such practices as dropping salary offerings below what the market customarily pays for certain positions simply to get a permit for a foreign employee, will no longer be possible. In such cases, the employer/company will be denied any such permit.

Armed with said report on cheap labor, they will imple-

ment categories, salary offerings in sync with the market for certain jobs/positions.

The Minister is adamant about this matter. He indicated that it will not be the government who will set the salary standards that must be offered and paid for certain job categories, but that the very market will stipulate these salaries.







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US will lead the 21st century: Clinton in last speech



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Thursday took issue with critics who say US global power is waning, arguing in her final public speech in office that America will continue to lead the 21st century.

But on the day before she officially steps down, Clinton called for the nation's institutions and relationships to be modernized, saying what was needed was "a new architecture for this new world. More Frank Gehry than formal Greek."

"Think of it," she urged an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations think-tank. "Some of his work at first might appear haphazard, but in fact it's highly intentional and sophisticated.

"Where once a few strong columns could hold up the weight of the world, today we need a dynamic mix of materials and structures."

In a strong defense of her four years in office, Clinton recalled where America was when she took up the post at the start of President Barack Obama's first term in office.

"Remember what we faced in January 2009: Two wars. An economy in free-fall. Traditional alliances fraying. Our diplomatic standing damaged," Clinton said.

"And around the world, people questioning America's commitment to core values and our ability to maintain our global leadership.

"That was my inbox on Day One as Secretary of State."

Four years on, the world "remains a dangerous and complicated place," but much had changed, Clinton argued, saying "we've revitalized American diplomacy and strengthened our alliances."

"In short, America today is stronger at home and more respected in the world. Our global leadership is on firmer footing than many predicted."

footing than many predicted."

She stressed Washington needed to use all the levers of global power at its fingertips, widening the "aperture of our engagement."

"You can't be a 21st century leader without 21st century tools -- not when people organize pro-democracy protests with Twitter, while terrorists spread their hateful ideology online."

And she warned perceptions of the United States abroad were changing.

"The reservoirs of good-will that we built around the world during the 20th century will not last forever; in fact in some places, they're already dangerously depleted," Clinton said.

"New generations of young people do not remember GIs liberating their countries or Americans saving millions of lives from hunger and disease."

As she prepares to hand over the baton to incoming secretary of state John Kerry, Clinton insisted America would remain "the indispensable nation."

"That's not meant as a boast or an empty slogan -- it's a recognition of our role and our responsibilities. That's why the declinists are wrong. And it's why the United States will continue to lead in this century, even as we lead in new ways."

Conflict flares anew as Colombia, rebels resume talks

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia's armed conflict flared up again Thursday, leaving four soldiers and five rebels dead in separate clashes as the government and leftist rebels resumed peace talks in Cuba.

They were the first combat casualties for the Colombian military since the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia ended a two-month unilateral ceasefire on January 20.

The military said four of its soldiers were killed and two wounded early Thursday when they tried to bloc FARC rebels from entering the town of Policarpa in southern Narino province.

In the northwestern province of Antioquia, meanwhile, five guerrillas were also killed during an army operation in the town of Nudo Paramillo, an army spokesman said.

The fighting broke out on the same day that peace negotiations aimed at ending Latin America's oldest insurgency resumed in Havana between representatives of the government and the FARC after a six-day break.

The latest round of talks comes amid rising tensions.

Besides Thursday's clashes, FARC rebels also have kidnapped two policemen and bombed a section of an oil pipeline in southern Putumayo province.

The FARC confirmed

Wednesday it was holding the two police officers, calling them "prisoners of war" and drawing a distinction between the capture of security forces and kidnappings for ransom, which it has pledged to stop.

The abductions were the first by the FARC since April 2012 when the group freed 10 police and soldiers who had been in captivity for years.

Humberto de la Calle, the chief government negotiator, said Wednesday that the kidnappings were "a mistaken response that constitute an attack on the (peace) process "

tack on the (peace) process."

He said the rebels would use the policemen's abductions to try to press for a ceasefire by both sides.

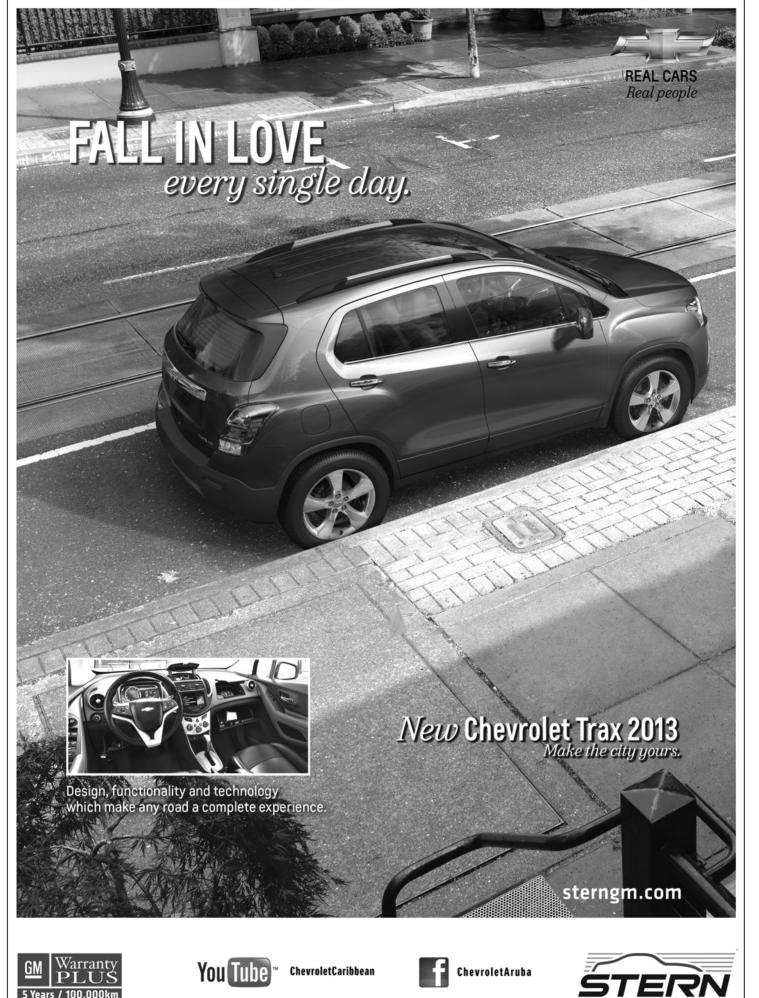
"We are not going to accept pressures to agree to a ceasefire," he said.

The talks, which began in November, are the first in a decade. Three previous attempts at a negotiated end to the conflict failed.

The FARC, formed in 1964, has an estimated 8,000 fighters engaged in Latin America's oldest insurgency.

The government delegation, headed by former Colombian vice president Humberto de la Calle, made no statement when it arrived Thursday at the convention center in Havana, where the talks have been held since they began November 19.





International News

Final hearing starts before Guatemala genocide trial

GUATEMALA CITY (AFP) -A Guatemalan judge began Thursday one last hearing before he sets a date for a historic trial against a former dictator charged in the death of more than 1,750 native

At the hearing prosecutors will present Judge Miguel Galvez with some of the evidence they will introduce at the trial of exruler Efrain Rios Montt, a retired general who is 86.

He ran a de facto regime in 1982 and 1983, considered among the most violent years of a civil war that lasted from 1960 to 1996 and left some 200,000 dead or missing.

Rios Montt, who seemed to be in good spirits, greeted the prosecutor and lawyers for victims as he arrived Thursday at the Supreme Court.

In a historic ruling on Monday, Judge Miguel Galvez ordered that Rios Montt stand trial for genocide and crimes against humanity. This marks the first time such proceedings have been brought in the Central American country over its agonizing civil war.

Also due to stand trial is retired general Jose Rodriguez, a senior official in the military

Prosecutor Orlando Lopez said he has about 900 pieces of evidence and testimony, including from 65 people who witnessed or suffered torture or attacks on their villages.

Rios Montt is accused of orchestrating the massacre of more than 1,750 indigenous Ixil Maya people in Quiche department during his time in power.

Rights advocates have worked for years to see Rios Montt tried, but he avoided court action, at one point by getting elected to Guatemala's congress -- and thereby winning parliamentary immunity.

Obama's Pentagon pick grilled by Republican

Vietnam war veteran picked to troop surge in Iraq in 2007 and worth losing some 1,200 Amer- combat tour in Vietnam, has Despite harsh criticism and lead the Pentagon, Chuck Hagel, faced a rough reception at his confirmation hearing Thursday as Republican critics reopened the bitter debate over the Iraq war and painted him as naive on national security.

In a dramatic exchange, a fellow veteran of Vietnam, Senator John McCain, blasted demanded Hagel declare if he had been wrong.

But Hagel, a Republican, calmly refused and tried to explain his thinking at the time, even as McCain repeatedly interrupted him.

McCain has seen the troop surge as allowing for a dignified exit from Iraq. Hagel, however,

icans in the surge of reinforcements to Iraq.

The tense back-and-forth underscored the tensions between Hagel and his fellow Republicans over his apostasy on the Iraq war, which he initially supported before breaking ranks.

The blunt-speaking former from Nebraska, senator

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Hagel for his opposition to the said it was unclear if it was wounded and decorated for his other adversaries. said military action should be a last resort and has sometimes expressed impatience with Israel while expressing support for direct talks with Iran.

But Hagel sought to reassure lawmakers that he regretted some of his past remarks and was ready to back military action if necessary against Iran or

a blitz of attack ads against Hagel, the White House is hopeful the Senate will approve his nomination in the end, albeit with little support from the Republican minority.

Another senator wounded on the Vietnam battlefield, John Kerry, has been approved as the next secretary of state.



Health & Living

No meat a day keeps the doctor away: study



PARIS (AFP) - A vegetarian diet can cut the risk of heart disease by as much as 32 percent, according to a British study published on Wednes-

Researchers who followed more than 44,500 volunteers for about 11 years on average, found vegetarians were significantly less prone to cardiac trouble.

In the 50-70 age group, 6.8 percent of people who ate meat or fish were hospitalised or died from heart disease, compared to 4.6 percent of vegetarians.

"We think (it) is due to their lower cholesterol and blood pressure," lead researcher Francesca Crowe from the University of Oxford's Cancer Epidemiology Unit told AFP.

A third of participants in the study, dubbed the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC), the largest of its kind in Britain, were vegetarians.

Heart disease is the singlelargest cause of death in developed countries, claiming 65,000 lives in Britain each

A total of 1,235 people in the study group developed heart disease, of whom 169

"These results show that diet is important for the prevention of heart disease," said Crowe of the results published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Vegetarians in the study typically had a lower weight-toheight ratio and a reduced risk of developing diabetes, they

The results had taken into account the effects of the participants' age, smoking habits and alcohol use, exercise routine, educational level and in-

Ninety-seven percent of the participants were Caucasian, said Crowe, but there was no difference in the results for different ethnic groups.

"There is no particular reason why it would not be generalisable to vegetarians in other population groups," she added.

Previous studies have found that vegetarians have a reduced rate of bowel disease and cataracts, but no difference in cancer risk from meateaters, said Crowe.

Beijing's choking smog

BEIJING (AFP) - Hospital adon pollution.

This week's pollution across

vast swathes of northern China

The pollution in the capital has been blamed on emissions from coal-burning in power stations and exhaust fumes from vehicles on choked

The elderly, young and those with health problems in the city of 20 million were urged to stay indoors earlier in the week -- or wear protective masks if they had to venture out -- while dozens of flights were cancelled after visibility fell drastically.

Man will have smaller fish to fry, biologists warn

PARIS (AFP) - As fish get smaller under Man's environmental impact, they become more exposed to predators, which means a crucial food source will become more endangered than thought, scientists said.

Previous research has found that some key fish species dwindle in size as larger specimens are trawled out and climate change starts to affect the food chain.

The shrinkage was quite small, up to four percent. Yet mortality from predators increased by as much as 50 percent, they found.

The repercussions for catches are significant.

The researchers looked at five southeast Australian trawl fisheries species -- the jackass morwong, the tiger flathead, silver warehou, blue grenadier and pink ling.

Species biomass decreased for all but the grenadier, which also shrank in size but whose numbers actually rose by up to 10 percent as the fish moved to more coastal areas where it was less vulnerable to predators, according to the simula-

Man is changing marine ecosystems worldwide -- directly through fishing and indirectly through global warming, the researchers wrote.

"Fisheries management practices that ignore contemporary life-history changes are likely to overestimate longterm yields and can lead to overfishing," they warned.

Hospital visits rise during

missions for respiratory complaints rose 20 percent during the latest choking smog to hit Beijing, reports said Thursday as state media demanded greater government openness

-- the fourth serious case of toxic air in recent weeks -- has sparked anger online and prompted unusually outspoken calls for action even from official media.

streets.

Marriage is good for the heart



PARIS\ (AFP) - Married people are less prone to heart attacks than singletons and more likely to recover if stricken, according to a Finnish study. The team found that unmarried men in all age groups were 58-66 percent more likely to suffer a heart attack than married ones. For women the nuptial benefit was even greater -- single women were 60 to 65 percent more likely to suffer acute coronary events, the Finnish researchers wrote in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology. For both genders, wedlock also considerably lowered heart attack



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Sci-Tech

Global tablet sales surged in past quarter



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Worldwide tablet sales jumped in the fourth quarter beyond even some of the most optimistic forecasts to 52.5 million, with Android-powered devices pacing growth, a survey showed Thursday.

The preliminary survey by business research firm IDC



showed the tablet market grew 75.3 percent year over year in the quarter. and rocketed 74.3 percent from the previous quarter's total of 30.1 million.

IDC said the strongest growth came from Android, including tablets made by South Korea's Samsung and Taiwan's Asus, which makes a Google-branded Nexus tablet.

Apple remained the biggest seller, but its market share was under 50 percent, IDC said.

The survey found that Microsoft, which launched its new Surface tablet in the quarter, failed to break into the top five sellers and shipped a modest 900,000 of the devices in the quarter.

new product launches, including the iPad mini, and lower prices, which encouraged buyers over the holiday shopping season, IDC said.

Apple's iPad held its top position with 22.9 million units

Overall, the market's strong

gains came from a spate of

Apple's iPad held its top position with 22.9 million units shipped. That was up 48 percent from a year earlier, but lower than overall market growth.

As a result, Apple's market share declined for a second quarter in a row to 43.6 percent from 46.4 percent in the third quarter.

Samsung, the number two vendor, saw year-on-year growth of 263 percent, selling 7.9 million tablets and grabbing a 15.1 percent percent market share.

IDC said Amazon, which does not provide its own sales data, delivered some six million tablets in the quarter to retain its spot as the number three vendor.

That represented 26.8 percent growth, giving Amazon a market share of 11.5 percent, IDC said.



- (AFP) This two-picture series obtained January 29, 2013 courtesy of Google shows before (L) and after (R) Google Maps images of North Korea. Weeks after its chairman Eric Schmidt's secretive visit to North Korea, Google has rolled out a detailed map of the isolated state that even labels some of its remote and infamous gulags. Until now North Korea was pretty much a blank canvas to users of Google's "Map Maker", which creates maps from data that is provided by the public and fact-checked in a similar process to that used by Wikipedia.

Warmer Earth will have less rain, not more: study

PARIS (AFP) - Climate scientists said Wednesday they found evidence to back predictions for a future with lower average rainfall, even though Earth's past warming episodes had led to more precipitation, not less.

Writing in the journal Nature, researchers said they had found proof that global warming caused by Man's greenhouse-gas emissions has a different effect on rainfall than warming caused by increased solar radiation.

Warming induced by carbon emissions is expected to accompany a rise in droughts in the future, they said.

This runs contrary to experience during the so-called Medieval Warm Period, from 1000 to 1250 AD, when Earth was hotter than today as a result of solar heating -- but also wetter

Scientists have long battled to understand the apparent contradiction.

Now they have shown that the two causes induce warming in different regions of the atmosphere, with different outcomes for rainfall formation.

The introduction of heat-absorbing greenhouse gases

leads to a narrowing of the usual temperature difference between different layers of the atmosphere -- thus a more stable atmosphere that is less conducive to rain, said the report.

"For the same increase in temperature, solar heating will induce an overall higher level of rainfall than greenhouse gases," said a Nature press statement.

"Less rainfall (under the greenhouse-gas warming scenario) means on average increasing chances for droughts," said co-author Bin Wang of the University of Hawaii's International Pacific Research Center.

Solar radiation can be affected by factors like volcanic activity, the level of aerosols in the atmosphere and changes in the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

The study says the estimates for future rainfall are a global average, and do not apply to what is expected to happen locally.

Previous research has pointed to risks of regional flooding or water stress as climate change alters traditional winds and the amount of moisture they pick up at sea.



PICKLES









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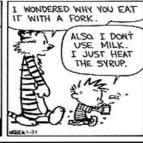


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DOWN

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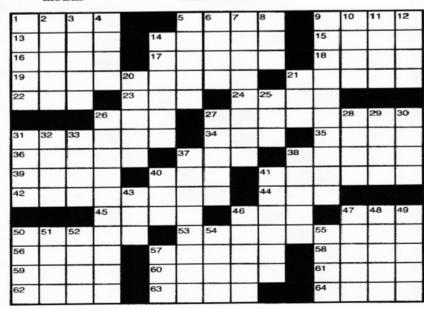
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- 52. Hymn
- conclusion 54. Father of
- Cainan
- 55. Gent's oath
- 57. Pay-_



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Finance

Shell posts mixed earnings amid volatile 'headwinds'

LONDON (AFP) - Energy giant Royal Dutch Shell said its net profits sank 14 percent last year despite an upbeat final quarter, as the group battled headwinds including volatile oil and gas prices.

Earnings after tax dropped to \$26.59 billion (19.62 billion euros) in 2012, compared with \$30.92 billion in the previous year, the Anglo-Dutch company revealed in its annual results statement

Net profits though rose 3.0 percent to \$6.7 billion in the three months to December, from \$6.5 billion last time around. Production also grew by 3.0 percent to 3.41 million barrels of oil equivalent per day in the fourth quarter on an annual basis.

Adjusted net profits -- stripping out gains or losses from fluctuations in the value of inventories -- jumped 13 percent to \$7.29 billion in the fourth quarter, as higher refining margins offset increased costs in exploration and production.

Total revenues meanwhile increased by 2.0 percent to \$118.05 billion in the last three months of 2012.

And the group also lifted its fourth-quarter shareholder dividend by 2.4 percent to 43 cents per share.

The London-listed energy major added that it would make \$33 billion in net capital investment this year, with new projects lined up for Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Iraq and the Arctic, as part of its ongoing investment plans.

The group also noted that the global energy demand outlook was solid, despite the challenging economic backdrop.

In reaction to the mixed results, Shell saw its 'A' share price drop 1.3 percent to 26.48 pence in late morning deals on London's FTSE 100 index of leading companies, which was 0.42 percent lower.



Congratulations to our winner! You could be next!



Mr. Eaves tried his luck at Hyatt Casino and won. He was playing the Wild Thing slot machine, and after only 30 minutes of playing, he hit the jackpot of \$16.000. Congratulations to Mr. Glenn Eaves



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Wall Street punishes BlackBerry, **Facebook**

NEW YORK (AFP) - Facebook and BlackBerry lost ground on Wall Street Thursday as investors gave a cool reception to earnings at social network Facebook and the launch of a new smartphone platform by the Canadian firm.

Facebook traded down 2.7 percent at \$30.40 in late morn-

YESTERDAY'S

ing trade even after results Wednesday which topped most analyst estimates.

Research in Motion, which rebranded the company as BlackBerry as it launched its new smartphones, tumbled 6.8 percent to \$12.84 after getting a lukewarm response to the

Facebook, which highlighted a growing shift to mobile usage, reported a \$64 million profit in the fourth quarter of last year, while revenue grew 40 percent to \$1.585 billion

But analysts expressed concern about news that Facebook expenses jumped 82 percent to \$1.06 billion and will keep rising given the company's plan to hire aggressively and invest heavily in datacenters.

Analysts at Jefferies downgraded Facebook, saying prof-**EST** its may be squeezed.

"While we are broadly supportive of Facebook's longerterm strategy, the material increase in 2013 spending pressures valuation, making the stock less attractive to own on a near-term basis, in our opinion," said Jefferies analyst Brian Pitz.

But Victor Anthony at Topeka Capital Markets said the dip is a buying opportunity. "We believe Facebook will continue to be one of the primary beneficiaries of the secular ad shift from traditional media to the Internet/mobile," he said.

BlackBerry meanwhile failed to generate buying from its launch of the new platform and devices aimed at competing with Apple's iPhone and others using the Google Android operating system.

Australian MP charged with 149 counts of fraud

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian police on Thursday arrested a member of parliament accused of spending union money on prostitutes, air travel and lavish meals and charged him with 149 counts of fraud, reports said.

MP Craig Thomson declined an offer to surrender himself and was arrested at his electorate office in the state of New South Wales, the Sydney Morning Herald quoted police as saying. He was bailed to appear in court on February 6.

Thomson was last year asked to quit the ruling Labor Party of Prime Minister Julia Gillard because of the allegations, despite her already precarious minority government, and has since been sitting as an independent.

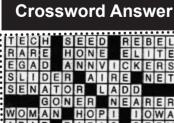
His arrest came just a day after Gillard made the surprise announcement that general elections would be held in September.

Police have for more than a year been probing allegations Thomson improperly used money belonging to the Health Services Union on prostitutes, travel, entertainment, and cash withdrawals in excess of Aus\$100,000 (US\$105,000).

The accusations relate to Thomson's time as national secretary of the union prior to his becoming an MP.

The charge sheet alleges he used a credit card in a payment to an escort service in February 2003, the Australian Associated Press reported.

The Sydney Morning Herald said that Thomson would be disqualified from parliament if he was convicted of a criminal offence that carried a jail term of one year or more.



Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge featuring live music this Sunday



--Aruba's newest lounge, Brickell Bay Sand Beach, in Palm Beach, created quite a stir with its recent opening, revealing a chic, unique environment that has strongly attracted island fashionistas as a relaxed, elegant place to



while away the evening hours.

The eatery/nightclub has live music

twice weekly, and this Sunday will feature on of the island's most popular and dynamic entertainers of the last decade, Marisela and the Aquarius Band. She is back on Aruba for a limited engagement and will be appearing every Sunday through January at Brickell Bay Sand Beach Lounge.

Marisela will be heating up Palm Beach for a very cool night each weekend beginning this Sunday, January 6, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. This is a performer known for "bringing down the house," so don't miss this rare opportunity to enjoy some great entertainment and discover Aruba's most stylish new nightspot.



Every Wednesday, The Ryders Hour" on the weekends from will be rockin' the house from 9:00 PM until midnight. Enjoy two for one drinks on all brands, even premium, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM every Monday through Thursday, and from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, with an additional late night "Happy

10:00 to 11:00 PM.

Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge is located directly across the street from the South Beach Center. If you are wondering what is new and hip on Aruba, this is it!

Carnaval Queen 2012 of The Netherlands arrives on Aruba!





Yesterday Carnaval Queen 2012 of The Netherlands arrived on Aruba. The beautiful Aruban Joanne Lopes pushed Aruba's name to the top during and after Carnaval in the Netherlands. She represented the Aruban Carnaval group in The Netherlands, headed by Carnaval Icon Rossini van Wijk "Kingdoms Under The Sun." Miss Lopes will be participating in all the Carnaval Festivities of Aruba's Carnaval 59. Photos show Joanne at her arrival in her Dushie Aruba and posing with long time 'Carnavalista' Rosalinda Arends. Welkom Joanne and enjoy Arubas 59 Carnaval.

Tonight is Aruba's **Carnaval Queen and Mrs Carnaval election**



Tonight at Aruba's Entertainment Center at 8 p.m. Aruba will choose their Carnaval Queen 2013 and also the Mrs. Carnaval Queen 2013. Entrance for this queen election will be Afl. 25. The night is promised to be filled with excitement, colors and fabulous shows.

Carnaval Queen 2013 are: Candidate 1. Samantha Anais Robert representing Royal Carnival Group

Candidate 2. Jeanique de Palm representing Champagne Carnival Group

Candidate 3. Giorgina Martinus representing **TOB** Carnival Group

Candidate 4. Stacey Croes representing La Cabana Beach Resorts & Glitz Casino

Candidate 5. Kimbery Ranes representing Colegio

Candidates for Mrs. Carnaval 2013 are:

Candidat 1. Jeanine Z Candidates for **Aruba's** Roga Wernet representing **Royal Carnival Group**

Candidate 2. Gladys R Martina representing **TOB**

Candidata 3. Olga Olivia Tromp representing Sra Gubernamental

(photo shows Lynette Do Do Nascimiento Arubas 2012 Carnaval Queen)

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French cheft demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English waywith vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat. sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

 Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas, The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer cus tom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



NFL: Lewis defends legacy, denies link to PED



NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - NFL linebacker Ray Lewis, one of the biggest stars in his sport, wants to go out on top by helping his Baltimore Ravens win a second Super Bowl championship.

But instead of taking his last bows ahead of what is to be the final football game of his career Sunday, Lewis has been forced to issue denials about a performance-enhancing drug.

The 37-year-old Lewis -- a hard-hitting, musclebound enforcer on the gridiron -- dismissed a Sports Illustrated report on Tuesday linking him to a product that includes a substance banned by the National Football League.

The report on SI's website comes four days before the Ravens meet the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl 47 that will crown the sport's new champion, at the Superdome stadium in New Orleans.

Sports Illustrated reported that Lewis last year was in touch with the company Sports with Alternatives to Steroids (SWATS) as he searched for a product that might quicken his recovery from a torn right triceps.

Sports Illustrated said he tried to obtain deer antler velvet extract to help him recover from his injury, which sidelined him for more than half the season. The spray however contains a compound called IGF-1, which is on the NFL's list of banned substances.

Speaking at the Hilton Riverside hotel in downtown New Orleans on Wednesday, Lewis laughed off the magazine's report.

"The reason why I am smiling is it is so funny of a story," Lewis said. "I never ever took what he says or did whatever I was supposed to do.

"Our world is a very secret society," he said of the NFL.

"We try to protect our world as much as we can," he said, railing against "cowards that come in and try to... disturb" their close and protected fraternity.

"I tell my teammates all the time: 'Don't let people from the outside ever come in and try to disturb you'," he said.

Lewis said the timing of the report was an attempt to capitalize on the Super Bowl hype.

Lewis is a hero to many who consider him to be the best ever to play the linebacker po-

sition for the National Football League, and his impending retirement has been headline news in the sport.

But all the attention also has focused greater scrutiny on one of the more controversial chapters of his career.

It was 13 years ago that two men were murdered following a Super Bowl party in Atlanta, Georgia, after a fight between Lewis' entourage and another group.

The Ravens' star player eventually admitted giving a misleading statement to police on the morning after the killings, and the crime still remains unsolved.

But critics feel he was given a pass in the case because of his superstar status in the sport, the most popular in America.

Lewis has said that he intends to remain focused on

winning another Super Bowl and will not be distracted by allegations dredged up from his past -- or speculation that he used banned substances.

During a wide-ranging press conference ahead of his second Super Bowl in a dozen years -- Lewis said he is hoping to make a big impact -- just like he did in 2001, when he was named MVP of the game.

He said he has spent countless hours studying strategy ahead of Sunday's contest, and hasn't even allowed himself to be lured by the enticements of New Orleans' night life.

And while for most players in the championship, a win or a loss Sunday will means several months of down-time before training gets underway for a new season, for Lewis it will mean retirement and the end of a storied career.

Sport

Beyonce to sing live at Super Bowl

NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - Beyonce vowed Thursday to sing live at her Super Bowl half-time show, confirming she sang along to a pre-recorded recording of the US national anthem at President Barack Obama's inauguration.

The chart-topping pop diva kicked off a press conference in New Orleans ahead of Sunday's American football event by singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" a cappella after asking assembled reporters: "Would you guys mind standing?"

Fielding questions afterwards, she declared: "I am absolutely going to sing live (on Sunday). I am well-rehearsed and absolutely singing live. This was what I was born to do."

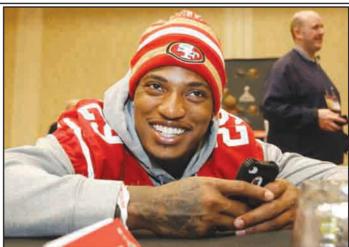
She also cleared the air about her January 21 performance at Obama's secondterm inauguration in Washington that prompted allegations that she had lipsynched the words to the national anthem.

"I always sing live," Beyonce said, but "this inauguration was unfortunately a time where I could not rehearse with the orchestra (the US Marine Band) because I was practicing for the Super Bowl -- that was always the plan.

Sunday's American football championship between the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49s is expected to draw nearly 180 million viewers, but the halftime typically pulls even higher ratings.

NEW ORLEANS (AFP) -

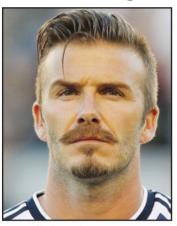
San Francisco 49ers cornerback Chris Culliver apologized Thursday for his anti-gay slur saying his comments were "ugly" and "he is not that kind of guy." "I am sorry I offended anyone. It was ugly comments. It is nothing I feel in my heart. I hope I can learn and grow from this experience. I love San Francisco," he said. The 24-year-old Culliver made the remarks about gays to American comedian turned radio



show host Artie Lange during Tuesday's Media Day. Lange asked Culliver if any members of the 49ers were homosexual or if he had ever been approached by "gay guys". "I don't do the gay guys man, I don't do that," Culliver said. "Nah, we ain't got no gay people on the team. "They gotta get up outta here if they do. Can't be with that sweet stuff. Nah, can't be in the locker room." Culliver said he was trying to be funny at the time and wishes he had got up and left the table instead of continuing the interview with Lange.



Football: Beckham signs for PSG, donates salary to charity



PARIS (AFP) - Former England captain David Beckham

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Tel: 588-9517 / Fax: 588-9518 E-mail: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com Website: www.themorningnewsaruba.com on Thursday signed for ambitious French league leaders Paris Saint-Germain on a five-month contract which will see him donate his entire salary to a children's charity.

The 37-year-old midfielder -- one of the world's most recognisable sportsmen with a pop star wife and an estimated net worth of 190 million pounds (\$300 million, 220 million euros) -- has been without a club since leaving Los Angeles Galaxy last year.

But after a day of fevered speculation, the ex-Manchester United, Real Madrid and AC Milan star was unveiled by Qatari-owned PSG at a packed news conference after a routine medical at a city hospital.

Father-of-four Beckham, whose family will remain in London, revealed that he would donate his salary during his time in the French capital to a local children's charity.

News of Beckham's arrival lit up the final day of the January transfer window, a year after the former Old Trafford playmaker was first linked with a move to the Parc des Princes.

It also provides a welcome boost to Ligue 1, which lacks the same level of star attraction as other major European leagues and has seen an exodus of top players in the transfer window, notably to the big money English Premier League.

Beckham insisted he has plenty to offer at PSG who currently top Ligue 1 and are in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Snowmobile rider Moore dies of X-Games injuries



compete at the highest level in any sport, risks remain."

Moore was injured on January 24 when attempting a back flip in the snowmobile freestyle competition, with the machine slamming into him.

He was eventually able to walk away from the crash. The Denver Post reported that Moore was initially diagnosed with a concussion, but doctors later found internal bleeding around his heart.

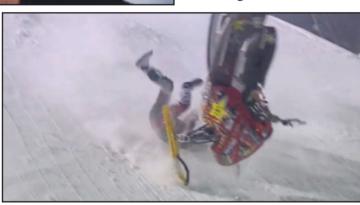
LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Snowmobile rider Caleb Moore died Thursday, a week after he crashed during the Winter X Games in Aspen, Colorado, X Games officials confirmed.

"We are deeply saddened by Caleb Moore's passing and our thoughts and prayers go out to his parents, Wade and Michelle, his brother, Colten, and the entire Moore family," officials from the event broadcast by ESPN said in a statement that was posted on the X Games Facebook page.

"He will be remembered for his natural passion for life and his deep love for his family and friends, and he will always be an inspiration to everyone he touched in the action sports community."

The death of the 25-yearold Moore is the first fatality





in the 18-year history of the event.

"For 18 years, we have worked closely on safety issues with athletes, course designers and other experts," the X Games statement said. "Still, when the world's best

The Post carried a statement from Moore family spokeswoman Chelsea Lawson on Thursday, expressing their gratitude for the support of fans and the doctors who treated Moore.



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NBA: Suns rally for win over Nash and Lakers, Heat scorch Nets while Grizzlies ship Gay to Raptors

PHOENIX (AFP) - Michael Beasley scored a season-high 27 points, including the goahead basket in the final minute, as the Phoenix Suns rallied for a 92-86 NBA victory Wednesday over the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Suns' victory spoiled Steve Nash's return to Phoenix, his first game there since he was traded from the Suns in the off-season.

The victory may have been doubly damaging for the Lakers as center Dwight Howard departed in the fourth quarter with a painful right shoulder.

Howard had grabbed an offensive rebound and tried to make a shot when he was fouled by Shannon Brown, who struck his right arm.

Howard, who missed three games in January with a torn labrum in his right shoulder, clutched his shoulder and left the court.

Beasley added six rebounds and five steals, while Marcin Gortat recorded a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns, who had lost two straight and were tied for last in the Western Conference going into the game.

Kobe Bryant fell one assist shy of his fourth straight game with double-digit assists. He led the Lakers with 17 points but missed a potential game-tying shot with 23 seconds remaining as the Lakers squandered a 13-point fourth-quarter lead.

The game was the first stop in a seven-game road-trip for the Lakers. They haven't won away from the Staples Center since December 22.

While in New York, Le-Bron James and the NBA champion Miami Heat ended the Brooklyn Nets' home winning streak in emphatic style with a 105-85 triumph at the Barclays Center.

The Heat shot 51.8 percent from the field and made 11-of-19 from three-point range to notch their 13th straight victory over the Nets -- including a sweep of all three regular-season games on the schedule in this campaign.

Miami bounced back from a double-overtime loss at Boston on Sunday, and halted the Nets' eight-game home winning streak.

Hours after Nets forward Reggie Evans said during his team's morning shoot-around that the Heat's 2012 title was devalued because it came in a lockout-shortened season, the champs showed they remain a cut above.

James scored 24 points with nine rebounds and seven assists. Dwyane Wade added 21 points and Chris Bosh scored 16 for a Miami team that broke open a close game with a 36-14 third quarter.

Brook Lopez, named to the All-Star game in place of injured Rajon Rondo of Boston on Wednesday, scored 21 points and Joe Johnson contributed 16. But the Nets were undone by 19 turnovers, including eight in the key third period.

The Heat continue a fourgame road trip on Friday at Indiana and wrap it up on Sunday at Toronto.

The Toronto Raptors confirmed Wednesday they have acquired forward Rudy Gay and center Hamed Haddadi from the Memphis Grizzlies in a three-team NBA trade.

Toronto shipped out Spanish guard Jose Calderon, forward Ed Davis and a second-round draft choice.



Davis went to the Grizzlies, while Calderon went to the Detroit Pistons -- who sent forwards Austin Daye and Tayshaun Prince to Memphis.

Gay has averaged 17.9 points, 5.8 rebounds, 1.3 steals and 36.2 minutes in 479 career games (443 starts).

The 26-year-old has played all seven of his NBA seasons in Memphis, but in unloading him and the remainder of the five-year, \$82 million contract he signed in July 2010, the Grizzlies can ease a luxury tax bite due next season.

Haddadi is the first Iranianborn player in the NBA. He has averaged 2.0 points, 2.1 rebounds and 6.1 minutes in 134 career outings, all with the Grizzlies.

Calderon averaged 10.0 points, 7.2 assists and 28.4 minutes in 525 games with Toronto.

Prince has spent his entire 11-year career with the Pistons and was part of their 2004 NBA championship team. He has career averages of 12.8 points, 4.7 rebounds and 2.6 assists.

